Communiqué

May, 2000

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hit your Back Button to return to the top of this index.

Regular Columns:
President's Report
Allan's Odds and Ends
Membership Changes
Bencher Adventures
In Memoriam

Special Features:
Barneyisms
New President Elected
Bencher Election Results
Bar Ad Review
Fifty Year Dinner
Safe Counsel
Many Thanks...
Audit Option Opens
Trust Accounting Software
Mentorship

Notices to the Profession:
Professional Liability Insurance Notices
CLIA 1999 Annual Report Available
Notice of Benchers' Meeting
Notice of Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Look At Some Issues Of The Past Year

Bjorn Christianson, Q.C. Out-going President

As this is my last Report, please allow me the indulgence of a brief look at some of the issues the Law Society dealt with in the last year.

Competence

Since beginning work on this in 1975, the Benchers had the benefit of three major reports, two full-scale planning retreats, and countless hours of critical thought on the subject of competence in the practice of law. Finally, in January of 2000, the Society adopted a working definition of competence.

As reported at that time, steps will be taken to implement the definition during the next two years. It will then be reviewed and amended, as experience has dictated. In the first four months

of operation, the definition has already demonstrated its usefulness by focusing our review of conduct that is the subject of a complaint. It is going to allow Bencher committees to take a more principled and objective approach than was possible when competence, or the lack of it, was simply in the eye of the beholder.

Incorporation of Professionals

For the first time in our history, lawyers can incorporate their practices to take advantage of the tax and estate planning opportunities that are available to other businesses. As a regulation issue, the Society's experience with incorporation is still quite limited but no significant problems are anticipated. Of course, the fees to be paid to the Society regarding the establishment, registration and maintenance of a law corporation are of concern to those members who wish to take advantage of its tax and estate planning benefits. The "non-incorporating" members of the profession, on the other hand, have concerns that if those fees are too low, they might amount to a subsidy of those who have chosen to incorporate. The challenge for the Society is to balance those concerns. Libraries

April, 2000, marked the first full year operating the library system (again). So far, the experience has been a positive one. In fact, the timing has proved to be fortuitous. The Federation of Law Societies of Canada, of which Manitoba is a member, is undertaking a National Virtual Law Library project. As we are now in control of our entire library system, we can maximize the benefits that will come from integrating an electronic and paper system. The years ahead will be interesting, though.

Title Insurance/Conveyancing Practices

This issue began with a concern about what title insurance would mean to the protection of the public and the practice of law in Manitoba. It grew into a recognition that the conveyancing process could be streamlined in ways that would do more than just answer the challenge of title insurers. Finally the strength of numbers was brought into play and the four Western Provinces, all using the Torrens system, have collaborated on a project on Conveyancing Practices. We are within months or producing a standard conveyancing model, fully approved by our insurers and the banking industry, for use in Western Canada.

Equity

The Bencher year began with the release of a model policy on alternative work schedules, as developed by the Equity Committee. As I prepare this Report, I expect the year to end with the Committee releasing a model policy on maternity and parental leave. You had to be there to fully appreciate the dedication, effort and balance demonstrated by the Committee members in the process of developing those policies.

Have you thought about whether such policies would be useful in your firm? Do you like statistics? Of the lawyers practicing 25 years or more, 97% are male. Of the lawyers who have been at the bar five years or less, virtually one-half are female. [In fact, in four Law Societies across Canada, there are more females in the under-five years category than males.] All lawyers, regardless of their gender, are putting a much greater emphasis on family life than might have been the case 20 years ago. If firms do not accommodate that, they stand to lose some of their best and brightest.

Governance

During the presidency of Laurie P. (now Madame Justice) Allen, the Benchers abandoned the micro-management style that was stultifying and frustrating the organization and everyone who was a part of it. The new governance approach dictates two roles for the Benchers. One of those roles is to develop policy, leaving administrative details such as the colour of chairs to be bought for the classroom to the administrative personnel. But old habits die hard; Justice Allen and her successors, John Neufeld, Colleen Suche and Doug Finkbeiner, bore the brunt of fighting off the temptation to revert to micro-management so that the new system could show its stuff. To my everlasting joy, this past year has been a marvel. Bencher debates have been informed, intelligent and objective - and blessedly short. In fact, the Bench expects to reduce its total number of full-Bench meetings from nine to seven during the coming year (and it will still get more done than ever before).

The other role for Benchers, and perhaps the more critical one, is that of monitoring the performance of our CEO and, through him, his staff. The Benchers have and will continue to take that seriously. CEO Allan Fineblit introduced a system of annual monitoring reports for each of the Society's departments last year. We are part way through the second cycle of those reports. So far, it is all good news. Freed from the fear that any sensible plan might be ditched or delayed at the next Bencher meeting, the administration has been able to implement plans of short, medium and long-term duration, all aimed at accomplishing the policies of the Law Society, as set by the Benchers. The result has been a better product, on a more timely basis, for less money i.e. your fees have gone down.

I can also tell you that these reports have taught the Benchers more about the operation of the Law Society than they had ever known when they were trying to micro-manage the beast. Frankly, I doubt that back in 1995/1996 even the most fervent supporter of this new governance system dreamed that we would end up with the information, the understanding, and ultimately the control over the organization that we now have.

By the time you read this, I will be "tail lights", and dusty ones at that. It has been fun. In those rare moments when it was not fun, it at least was not boring - who could ask for more? I commend the experience to you and I thank you for my opportunity to enjoy it.

Bjorn Christianson, Q.C.

Barneyisms

Allan Fineblit, Q.C., Chief Executive Officer

We told you when he was elected as President of the Law Society he was known for his colourful turns of phrase. Here are some of the best of Barney from his year as President:

- When describing his ambition for the Law Society of Manitoba to be a leader in the development of national solutions to complex problems: "*When you're not the lead dog on the team the view never changes*".
- When trying to put an end to a circular debate: "*When the horse is dead, dismount.*"
- When encouraging us to keep our focus: "*We need to ask what is the purpose of being in the swamp before we spend a lot of time figuring out how to avoid the alligators*".
- Referring to the rancorous debates of yester-year: "*When you wrestle with pigs you all get dirty but the pigs like it*".

- And Barney was most famous for his country remedy for all things evil: "*The Winchester Solution*".

New President Elected

Herbert J. Peters, In-coming President

Herbert Peters was elected as the 80th President of the Law Society of Manitoba on May 18th, 2000.

Herb was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1981 and practises in the areas of corporate, commercial, real estate, financial services and aboriginal law at the firm of Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson where he has been a partner since 1990.

Herb has been a Bencher since 1994 and has chaired the Law Society Complaints Investigation Committee, Professional Liability Claims Fund Committee, Practice and Ethics Committee and Discipline Committee. Herb served as the Bar Admission Course Real Property course head for four years but by far his most impressive credential as an educator is that he claims to have taught his brother Vic how to curl.

Bencher Election Results

Historically we have always published the Bencher election results, including the number of votes for each candidate. It isn't exactly clear why this tradition started and a number of people have suggested changing to a practice similar to the one used by the MBA (publishing the names of those elected but not the number of votes).

We have decided to try it and see what you think. Please let us know. The actual numbers of votes each candidate received are available to anyone who wants them by calling Lana Williams at 942-5571.

CITY OF WINNIPEG ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Green, Q.C., Sidney Elected
Spivak, Lori T. Elected
Peters, Herbert J. Elected
Smorang, Q.C., Garth H. Elected
Killeen, Timothy J. Elected
Wright, Campbell G. Elected
Riley, G. Patrick Elected
Jensen, Paul L. Elected
Miller, Q.C., Donna J. Elected
Haight, William G. Elected

EASTERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT
Van der Krabben, Jon W.N. Elected

CENTRAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Hoeschen, Gordon J. Acclamation

WESTERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT
Johnston, William R. Elected
Fraser, Patricia L. Elected

DAUPHIN ELECTORAL DISTRICT
Semchuk, Alan J. Acclamation

NORTHERN ELECTORAL DISTRICT
Bates, Gordon D.H. Acclamation

There were 1725 names on the voting list. The number of ballots cast was 929 of which 8 were rejected for the following reasons:

Three (3) incomplete voting declaration or no voting declaration

One (1) voted for too many

Four (4) arrived late

Allan's Odds and Ends

Allan Fineblit, Q.C., Chief Executive Officer

- There are still several talented and energetic **students** looking for articles. Contact Sheila Redel if you'd like to see some resumes.
- The 33rd Annual **Call to the Bar** Ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 15th at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre. You are invited. **Mr. Justice Jewers** will be the speaker. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Please arrive at the theatre by 9:15 a.m. and enter the building by the main entrance on Main Street. A robing room will be available in the lower level for those wishing to gown for the procession. If you want to take the bus from the Law Courts Building, please be there at 8:45 a.m.
- Thanks to **Harry Walsh, Q.C.** for sending me a copy of his 1937 Call to the Bar Certificate. He wrote *"I know that I was admitted to the practice as a Barrister-at-Law only on May 19th, 1937. I didn't have sufficient money to pay for admission to be called as a Solicitor . . . You will note that it was signed by R. D. Guy who was the father of R. D. Guy Jr. R.D. Guy Jr., who sat in the Manitoba Court of Appeal was a well known entertainer on the radio in his youth. The second signature is that of Esten Kenneth Williams who became a President of the Canadian Bar Association, always sported a neatly trimmed goatee and referred to driving with him as a passenger in my automobile as being on the 'winged wheels of Jehosophat'"*.
- We have been contacted by a third year law student in the Czech Republic who is seeking a summer position with a law firm in Canada with emphasis in business or international law. If you want more information contact Sheila Redel.
- **John McFarlane** will retire as the "Dean" of our Audit Department after 13 years of a second career at the Law Society. His wit and wisdom will be missed by his friends in the legal profession and his colleagues at the Law Society.

Bar Ad Review

For some time the Law Society has been considering whether to restructure the Bar Admission Course from its Friday format to a block format similar to what is done in other Canadian jurisdictions. This is attractive because it is cheaper and would relieve students of some of the pressure of balancing articling work and Bar Admission studies. Last year the Admissions and Education Committee undertook an extensive consultation with students, principals, and instructors about their views on the impact of these changes. A sub-committee chaired by **Garth Smorang, Q.C.** was asked to produce a report for the Admissions and Education Committee. After studying the issue and the opinions and advice received, the working group reported to the Admissions and Education Committee. On May 18th, the Admissions and Education Committee Chair, **Alan Semchuk**, reported the following conclusions to Benchers:

- Because of significant concerns about instructors' availability and the adaptability to a block format of certain major articling student employers, the Committee would not be recommending any change in the format;
- The Admissions and Education Committee would expand its study, however, to look at the content of the Bar Admission Course and the degree to which greater co-ordination could take place with the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba to maximize the efficiency of both programs.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following members have voluntarily changed their status as indicated on the dates shown:

Inactive to Practising:
May 1, 2000 Cindy L. Sholdice
May 8, 2000 Rosemarie Cuddy
May 15, 2000 Laurence J. Gillespie

Non-Practising to Practising:
April 1, 2000 Pascale-Sonia Roy
April 6, 2000 Brian J. Pannell
May 1, 2000 Colin S. Morrison
May 1, 2000 Diane M. Stasiuk

Practising to Non-Practising:
April 1, 2000 J. George B. Dangerfield, Q.C.
April 1, 2000 E. Jane Baldwin
April 1, 2000 G. Stanley Farwell
April 1, 2000 Douglas A. Young
April 1, 2000 Barbara C. Palace
April 1, 2000 Sean C. Brennan
April 1, 2000 J. Pat Riley

Practising to Inactive:
January 31, 2000 Orest Pressey
February 1, 2000 Ian E. Davis
April 1, 2000 Stephen D. Alsip
April 1, 2000 Samuel B. Braker
April 1, 2000 Lynne M. Arnason
April 1, 2000 Gregory G. Parker

April 1, 2000 Rita M. Richardson
April 1, 2000 Carla B. Paul
April 1, 2000 Robert Krause
April 1, 2000 Alexander J. Kocsis
May 1, 2000 Crystal A.R. Kennedy
May 1, 2000 Avery B. Rich

Fifty Year Dinner

On April 6, 2000, approximately 300 lawyers, judges and their families gathered to pay tribute to a dozen Manitoba lawyers who had practised for 50 years or more and either were still at it, or had recently retired.

What was truly remarkable was their accumulated legacy of service to their clients, their profession, their communities and their country.

The dinner was hosted by Law Society President **Bjorn Christianson, Q.C.,** and the honourees were toasted by **Peter Liba**, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, **Chief Justice Scott**, Attorney General **Gord McIntosh**, **Donna Miller, Q.C.** on behalf of the Minister of Justice Ann McLellan, and Canadian Bar Association Past President **Barry Gorlick, Q.C.**

Safe Counsel

Members of the profession are reminded that since December, 1995, a number of volunteer lawyers have been available to act as "safe counsel" to individuals concerned that they have been or are being subjected to harassment and/or discrimination within the legal profession as well as to individuals against whom allegations of harassment or discrimination have been made. The role of safe counsel is to act as a resource person and, if necessary, as a support person for these individuals. Safe counsel does not act as legal advisor or advocate in the traditional sense of the word but rather provides information with respect to procedures and the potential consequences of the various options available for dealing with harassment and discrimination.

The services of safe counsel are free of charge and are available to both lawyers and non-lawyers, including clients and legal support staff. Communications with safe counsel are treated as confidential.

The following individuals currently act as safe counsel:

Jennifer A. Cooper, Q.C. 949-1710 Roger B. King, Q.C. 942-3311
William E. Doyle 475-4040 Sandra Phillips 885-5557
Lori C. Ferguson Sain 954-4575 Priti Shah 477-5985

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR PROFESSIONAL IABILITY INSURANCE

Each year at about this time, we put you on notice of what we refer to as the "speak now or forever hold your peace" provision in your Insurance Policy. Coverage under the current Lawyers' Professional Liability Insurance Policy expires on July 1 at 12:01 a.m., to be replaced by a new Policy of Insurance. At that time, the Insurer shall be free from liability for all new

claims and possible claims against members, except where the member has given written notice to the Insurer during the 1999/2000 Policy period of any circumstance which might give rise to a claim. The 2000/2001 Policy will not provide coverage for any error or ommission occurring prior to July 1, 2000, if, as of July 1, 2000, the Insured knew or could have reasonably foreseen that such error or omission would likely be the basis of a claim.

If you are aware of any circumstance which will likely give rise to a claim against you, you must give written notice of that potential claim to the Director of Insurance of The Law Society of Manitoba prior to July 1, 2000, the Policy expiry date. Notice can be given by completing a Professional Liability Insurance Claims Reporting form. Please contact the Professional Liability Claims Fund Program at 942-5571 to obtain Claims Reporting forms.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT INSURANCE CLAIMS OVER $1 MILLION

Excess Insurance 2000/2001 Policy Year
Why Should You Consider Buying Excess Professional Liability Insurance?

Excess Insurance provides another layer of security, should your defence and indemnity costs in a negligence suit exceed the primary limits of your mandatory insurance policy. The Law Society of Manitoba Professional Liability Claims Fund provides mandatory coverage to Insured members of $1 Million per claim, with an aggregate coverage limit of $2 Million per lawyer per year. On a national basis, the number of professional liability claims against lawyers is increasing, as is the severity of the individual claims. One large claim could quite quickly erode your primary policy coverage of $1 Million, leaving you exposed to significant personal liability. Even if no liability ultimately exists, significant defence costs may be incurred, potentially eroding the primary insurance policy. It's important to remember that it is not just your own activities which must be considered; claims relating to partners, associates, and employees, both past and present, may erode your existing insurance coverage limits.

Matters to be considered in assessing the adequacy of existing insurance limits for your firm include:

- the nature, size and frequency of transactions and the potential impact on the client; and
- whether the insurance currently held by your former partners and former employees is adequate and includes their past activities.

Excess insurance policies are "claims-made", which means that coverage is triggered not when the work was done but when the claim is known to the insured and is reported to the insurer. Therefore, excess insurance purchased today protects you against errors made in the past (but currently unknown to you).

Excess insurance, through the Canadian Lawyers' Insurance Association (CLIA), providing additional coverage of up to $4 Million per claim, can be purchased through The Law Society of Manitoba. CLIA's standard excess policy will also provide "drop-down" protection in the event of exhaustion of the $2 Million aggregate coverage under the mandatory insurance.

For more information on excess insurance or to obtain a CLIA Excess Insurance Application, please contact Bonnie Harvey of our office at 926-2026.

CLIA EXCESS INSURANCE SCHEDULE

Limit of Liability Premium Rate
(Per Lawyer)

$1,000,000 any one Occurrence $325
$2,000.000 any one Policy Period
$2,000,000 any one Occurrence $450
$4,000,000 any one Policy Period
$3,000,000 any one Occurrence $575
$6,000,000 any one Policy Period
$4,000,000 any one Occurrence $675
$8,000,000 any one Policy Period

CLIA'S 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

The 1999 Annual Report of the Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association (CLIA) is now available on CLIA's website at: www.clia.ca

Alternatively, link to the Canadian Lawyers Insurance Association here.

For those of you who wish to have a hard copy of CLIA's Annual Report, please contact Bonnie Harvey at our office at 926-2026.

Bencher Adventures

Allan Fineblit, Q.C., Chief Executive Officer

The following are the highlights of the meeting of the Benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba held on May 18th, 2000:

- **Herb Peters** was elected as the new President of the Law Society.
- The Nominating Committee, comprised of Douglas Finkbeiner, Q.C., Bjorn Christianson, Q.C., Herb Peters, William Johnston, Paul Jensen, Lori Spivak and David Kroft, nominated **Tim Killeen** and **Gordon Bates** as Vice-Presidential candidates. An election took place and Tim was elected as the new Vice-President of the Law Society.
- The report of the Nominating Committee was approved which made appointments to the various Law Society Committees. **Lori Spivak** is the new Chair of the Discipline Committee and **Alan Semchuk** is the new Vice-Chair. **Patrick Riley** will Chair the Equity Committee. **William Haight** will Chair the Reimbursement Claims Fund Committee, **Gordon Bates** will return as Chair of the Practice and Ethics Committee and **William Johnston** will Chair the Professional Liability Claims Fund Committee. **Garth Smorang** will Chair the Complaints Investigation Committee and **Paul Jensen** will be Vice-Chair. **Donna Miller, Q.C.** will Chair the Admissions and Education Committee and **Campbell Wright** will be Vice-Chair of that Committee.
- On the recommendation of last year's Practice and Ethics Committee Benchers approved a new model for the Committee. It will meet only at the call of the Chair and convene in small panels of expertise depending on the issue in front of them.
- Benchers received a monitoring report on the Law Society's investments. Investment

performance improved in the last quarter. Our return on investments for the 12 months ending March 31, 2000 was 7.6% which is still below the "double digit" performances of the last 3 years.

- Benchers considered a monitoring report on our Legal Studies Program which consists of the Bar Admission Course and the Continuing Legal Education Program. Discussion about the report focused on the relationship of Continuing Legal Education to competence. (Copies of the full monitoring report are available from Lana Williams at 942-5571).

- Lay Bencher **Charlie Curtis** presented a report on the new business plan of the Legal Data Resources Corporation.

- Life Bencher Certificates were presented to **Lewis Wasel, Wolf Riedel, Q.C., Heather Leonoff, Q.C., and Bjorn Christianson, Q.C.**

NOTICE OF BENCHERS' MEETING

The next meeting of the Benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on **Thursday, June 15, 2000 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Society's Boardroom, 219 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Members of the Society are encouraged to attend and participate in the deliberations of the governing body.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba will be held on **Thursday, June 15, 2000 at 3:00 p.m.** immediately following the regular Benchers' meeting in the Society's Boardroom, 219 Kennedy Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Many Thanks ...

The Complaints Investigation Committee wishes to express its sincere thanks to the many members who volunteered their time to conduct Practice Reviews and to prepare the necessary reports for the Committee's consideration. The Committee recognizes that the practise of law is demanding and appreciates the invaluable contribution of these practitioners' time.

Chapter 15 of the *Code of Professional Conduct* states that: *"The lawyer should assist in maintaining the integrity of the profession and should participate in its activities"*. The Committee's volunteers have done just that!

Many thanks to the following:

Lori Ainemer
J. Edward Crane
Lori Douglas
Robert Doyle
Jeffrey Harris
Sandra Hoeppner
Rocky Kravetsky
Wayne Onchulenko
Mark Schulman, Q.C.
Robert Tyler
Norman Yusim

The Law Society of Manitoba also wishes to thank the following members who have been involved in fee

arbitrations as a member of a Legal Fees Advisory Committee within the past year:

Elizabeth Béaupre
Douglas Bedford
Victor Bellay
Judith Blair
Derek Booth
Donald Brock
George Chapman, Q.C.
William Doyle
Lori Douglas
Len Fishman
Raymond Flett, Q.C.
Elliott Goszer
Maria Halkewycz
Richard Handlon
Jeffrey Harris
Greg Hawrysh
Cynthia Hiebert-Simkin
Wayne Jackiew
Jacob Janzen
Douglas Johnston
Fay-Lynn Katz
Jack King
Sandra Kliman
Renate Krause
Cyril Labman
Melanie Lautt
Israel Ludwig
David Marr
Alvin McGregor, Q.C.
Brian Midwinter, Q.C.
Wayne Onchulenko
Anu Osborne
Charles Phelan, Q.C
Jay Prober
Marianne Rivoalen
Walter Saranchuk, Q.C.
Saul Simmonds
Diane Stevenson
Howard Tennenhouse
Norman Yusim
Stephen Vincent
Douglas Ward, Q.C.

The members of the public are appreciative of the opportunity to have fees reviewed without having to proceed to court. This process would not be possible without the generous donation of both time and expertise from our volunteer members.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Andrew Royden Thompson who passed away on February 13, 2000 at the age of 75. Dr. Thompson was called to the Bar in Manitoba on May 27, 1948. In 1950 Dr. Thompson began a 41 year teaching career at the University of Alberta Law School where he became a specialist in petroleum and natural gas law. In 1969 he accepted an appointment as professor of law at the University of British Columbia where he became a specialist in environmental law and aboriginal law. In 1973 Dr. Thompson served as chair of the British Columbia Energy Commission for four years and later as sole commissioner of the federal West Coast Oil Ports Inquiry. From 1978 to 1985, he was director of the Westwater Research Centre. Dr. Thompson was the general editor of Butterworths Ontario Digest, and co-author of the first edition of Lewis and Thompson, Canadian Oil and Gas. He was a founding member of the Canadian Petroleum Law Foundation; a member of the International Council on Environmental Law; and honorary director of the West Coast Environmental Law Association; a past director of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund; a member and past chair of the Canadian Arctic International Wildlife Range Association. In 1988/89 he chaired the Special Committee of the CBA on Aboriginal Rights in Canada and in 1990 he received Environment Canada's Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to the Environment.

Daniel Abraham Yanofsky who passed away on March 5, 2000 at the age of 74. Mr. Yanofsky was called to the Bar in Manitoba on June 2, 1951; admitted as a solicitor on October 2, 1953; and appointed Queen's Counsel in December 1980. Mr. Yanofsky was accomplished in many fields and was a "chess" child prodigy at the age of 11 years and went on to become Canadian Chess Champion eight time, North American Champion and later on British Chess Champion. He became Canada's first Chess Grandmaster in 1964 and in 1972 was awarded the Order of Canada by the Governor General in recognition of his achievements. Mr. Yanofsky was actively involved in politics from 1961 to 1986 and served as an alderman and Mayor of the City of West Kildonan and a Councillor and Finance Chairman of the City of Winnipeg. Mr. Yanofsky was a key player in the conception and development of the Seven Oaks General Hospital and the Wellness Institute.

William Dmetro Koshowski who passed away on March 6, 2000 at the age of 67. Mr. Koshowski was called to the Bar July 27, 1961 and practised law in the City of Winnipeg.

Andrew Clarence Balkaran, Q.C. who passed away on March 13, 2000 at the age of 76. Mr. Balkaran entered Law School in 1956 and won numerous academic prizes and awards, including the University Gold Medal for the highest standing upon his graduation in 1960. Mr. Balkaran articled with the late Hart Green Jr., Q.C. and then practised law, first at the City of Winnipeg and later with Izzy Asper. He joined the Provincial Government in 1963 as legislative counsel, and in 1966, he was appointed by the Government of Saskatchewan as its legislative counsel. He returned to Winnipeg in 1969 and accepted an appointment as associate legislative counsel, a post he held continuously until his retirement in 1988. Mr. Balkaran was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1981 and also a sessional lecturer on the subject of legislation at the Faculty of Law.

Leonard French who passed away on March 14, 2000 at the age of 71. Mr. French began work as a clerk in an insurance office and this proved to be the start of a 50 year career in the insurance industry. Mr. French was the Law Society of Manitoba's insurance adjuster for almost 20 years.

Joseph Barry Hughes, Q.C. who passed away on April 8, 2000 at the age of 72. Mr. Hughes as called to the Bar on September 14, 1951 and was appointed Queen's Counsel on December 31, 1966. His wisdom and strength live on in the legacy that is his 50 years as a lawyer at the firm of Inkster, Christie, and Hughes.

Sidney Sheps who passed away on April 24, 2000 at the age of 81. Mr. Sheps was called to the Bar June 1, 1943 and developed the successful business Sidney G. Sheps and Associates. He later continued his insurance business with Johnson and Higgins Willis Faber. Mr. Sheps was past President of both the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue and the Manitoba Opera Association, and was active in many other professional, business and charity groups.

Audit Option Opens

. . . say that three times really fast. We were approached by a law firm that had just undergone a spot audit covering exactly the same period for which they were now required to file a Form D accountant's report. "Why," they asked, "should we have to hire an accountant to complete a review of something your accountant just reviewed?" Why indeed. From now on if a Law Society audit covered essentially the same period as the Form D would cover and the audit results were generally positive we will consider waiving the Form D on request.

Trust Accounting Software

Approximately one third of the lawyers in the province use some form of trust accounting computer software. A portion of the other two thirds of lawyers are interested in computerizing their trust accounting systems. We therefore are looking for individuals and law firms willing to serve as references (good or bad) for the software that they are using. If you are interested in being such a reference please contact **Nancy Zacharias** at the Law Society. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Mentorship

Last fall we began a mentorship program in partnership with the Manitoba Bar Association. Volunteer mentors were matched with mentees by areas of practice.

About 70 of you volunteered to act as mentors and we had about 20 requests by mentees, all of whom have been matched with appropriate mentors.

If you are a lawyer looking for a mentor, or would like to volunteer to be one, please contact us. Let us know what area(s) of law you are interested in.

COMMUNIQUÉ BACK ISSUES

January 2000
October 1999
May 1999
January 1999
September 1998
May 1998